to keep the sample analysis unit fixated onto the support member **54**. It will be appreciated that this embodiment is particularly suitable when the sample analysis unit **18** comprises a carrier that is thin enough to be wedged in between the pressure roll **56** and the support member **54**. In an embodiment, at least the end portion of the carrier that engages with this mechanical reference has a substantially constant thickness.

[0062] Alternatively, the end portion has a decreasing thickness in the direction from the mechanical support towards the sample extraction unit **16** such that upon insertion of the end portion in between the pressure roll **56** and the support member **54**, the shape of the end portion acts as a slope for the pressure roll **56**, such that the pressure roll **56** is forced further upwards upon the attempted release of the disposable cartridge **10** from the chamber **60**. In other words, such a tapered thickness forces the pressure roll **56** to resist release of the end portion.

[0063] FIG. **12** also shows a nut **62'** for adjusting the pressure exerted by a ball bearing **62** inside the chamber **60**.

[0064] It should be noted that the above-mentioned embodiments illustrate rather than limit the invention, and that those skilled in the art will be able to design many alternative embodiments without departing from the scope of the appended claims. In the claims, any reference signs placed between parentheses shall not be construed as limiting the claim. The word "comprising" does not exclude the presence of elements or steps other than those listed in a claim. The word "a" or "an" preceding an element does not exclude the presence of a plurality of such elements. The invention can be implemented by means of hardware comprising several distinct elements. In the device claim enumerating several means, several of these means can be embodied by one and the same item of hardware. The mere fact that certain measures are recited in mutually different dependent claims does not indicate that a combination of these measures cannot be used to advantage.

1. A disposable cartridge (**10**) for insertion into a sample analyzer (**50**), the disposable cartridge comprising a housing (**16**) including a sample analysis unit (**18**) for engaging with the sample analyzer and a sample extraction unit (**14**) for extracting a sample from a sample collection unit (**12**) and transferring said sample to the sample analysis unit, the sample extraction unit being coupled to the sample analysis unit by a flexible connection (**30**), wherein one of the sample analysis unit and the sample extraction unit is flexibly connected to the housing.

2. The disposable cartridge (**10**) of claim **1**, further comprising the sample collection unit (**12**), said sample collection unit being mounted in the sample extraction unit (**14**).

3. The disposable cartridge (**10**) of claim **1**, wherein the sample collection unit (**12**) comprises a porous material for collecting a bodily fluid, and wherein the sample extraction unit (**14**) is arranged to compress the porous material to extract the bodily fluid from said material.

4. The disposable cartridge (**10**) of claim **1**, wherein the sample analysis unit (**18**) is flexibly connected to the housing (**16**).

5. The disposable cartridge (**10**) of claim **4**, wherein the housing (**16**) comprises a pair of inner grooves (**26**) for receiving the sample analysis unit (**18**), and wherein the sample analysis unit comprises respective portions (**26'**) for insertion into said grooves, wherein the width of said grooves exceeds the thickness of said portions such that said portions do not fit tightly into said grooves.

6. The disposable cartridge (**10**) of claim **1**, wherein the sample extraction unit (**14**) and the sample analysis unit (**18**) are connected by a flexible member comprising a pair of rings (**42**) separated by a flexible membrane (**40**), wherein the rings are in intimate contact with the housing and the sample analysis unit respectively.

7. The disposable cartridge (**10**) of claim **5**, wherein the sample analysis unit (**18**) comprises a carrier having a substantially constant thickness, said carrier comprising said respective portions (**26'**).

8. The disposable cartridge (**10**) of claim **1**, wherein the housing (**16**) comprises a mating member (**36**) for engaging with a complementary mating member (**62**) of the sample analyzer (**50**).

9. A sample analyzer (**50**) for analyzing the sample in the sample analysis unit (**18**) of the disposable cartridge (**10**) of claim **8**, wherein the sample analyzer comprises a chamber (**60**) for receiving the sample analysis unit, said chamber comprising the complementary mating member (**62**).

10. The sample analyzer (**50**) of claim **9**, wherein the complementary mating member comprises a pair of flexibly mounted ball bearings (**62**) for engaging with a pair of recesses (**36**) in the housing of the disposable cartridge, said ball bearings at least partially protruding into the chamber (**60**).

11. The sample analyzer (**50**) of claim **10**, further comprising an optical analysis unit, wherein the sample analysis unit (**18**) of the disposable cartridge comprises (**10**) an optically accessible window (**34**), and wherein the ball bearings (**62**) are arranged to align the optically accessible window with the optical analysis unit when engaging with said pair of recesses (**36**).

12. The sample analyzer (**50**) of claim **10**, wherein the ball bearings (**62**) are spring-mounted, and wherein the sample analyzer further comprises a pair of nuts (**62'**) for adjusting the spring force exerted onto the respective ball bearings.

13. The sample analyzer (**50**) of claim **10** designed for receiving a disposable cartridge (**10**) having sample analysis unit (**18**) comprising a carrier having a substantially constant thickness, the sample analyzer comprising a gripping member (**52**, **56**) for gripping an end portion of said carrier when the disposable cartridge is fully inserted into the chamber (**60**).

14. The sample analyzer (**50**) of claim **14**, wherein the gripping member comprises a support (**52**) for supporting said end portion and a spring-loaded pressing member (**56**) for pressing said end portion onto said support.

15. A system comprising a disposable cartridge (**10**) according to claim **1** and a sample analyzer (**50**) for analyzing the sample in the sample analysis unit (**18**) of the disposable cartridge (**10**), wherein the sample analyzer comprises a chamber (**60**) for receiving the sample analysis unit, said chamber comprising the complementary mating member (**62**).

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